



# Fast Facts

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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## ADOLESCENT FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

### The Problem

- Although there has been a significant decline in the birth rate among girls 10 to 19 years of age in the last five years, nearly 60,000 babies will be born to teenage mothers in California in 2001.
- Teen parenthood reduces opportunities for education and self-sufficiency, both for teens and their children.
- Teenage mothers are among the highest at-risk population for long-term welfare dependency, yet 85 percent of all teen pregnancies are unintended.

### The Program

The Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP) provides comprehensive, continuous case management and counseling services for pregnant and parenting teens age 18 and under. Case management services include outreach services, comprehensive assessments, community referral, counseling, follow-up, and advocacy for services that are not yet available.

The underlying objective of the AFLP is to maximize the teen's potential through skill development, leading to self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and the ability to make responsible choices for herself and her child. Specific program goals are to:

- Ensure healthy pregnancy outcomes for mother and infant, including a reduction of low birthweight babies.
- Reduce the incidence of subsequent teenage pregnancies.
- Help teens complete educational or vocational programs and become emotionally, socially, and economically self-sufficient.

A companion program - Adolescent Sibling Pregnancy Prevention - is a primary prevention program that serves to break the cycle of early sexual activity and pregnancy among younger brothers and sisters of teen parents through case management, mentoring, and referral to needed services.

Through local assistance contracts with health departments, schools, hospitals, and other community-based agencies, teens are provided a case manager who assesses individual needs, plans a service program with the teenager, assists in accessing services, and provides ongoing counseling and progress evaluation.

### **AFLP Funding**

Current fiscal year funding (2000-2001) provides a total of \$22.2 million for AFLP for case management, outreach, and counseling services to more than 17,000 teens through 47 local agencies. The demand for AFLP case management services remains strong: 69 percent of agencies reported waiting lists of more than 60 eligible clients and an average wait of more than two months to enter the program. The Department has provided extensive technical assistance to local AFLP agencies to provide them with allowable federal matching funds for appropriate activities that enhance program services for Medi Cal beneficiaries.

Also, \$3 million of the program budget is being used to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in siblings of pregnant and parenting adolescents by ameliorating those factors that contribute to teen pregnancy.